

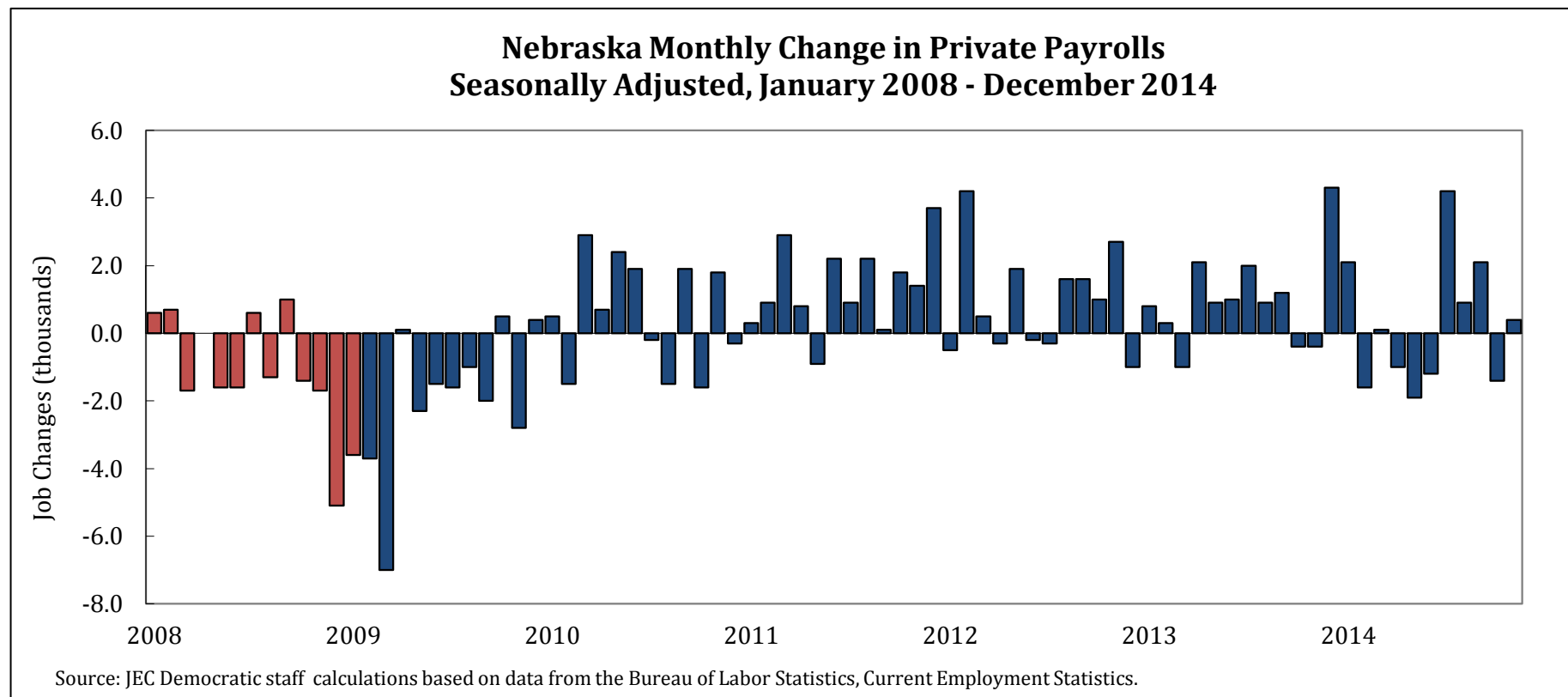


## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: NEBRASKA

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through December 2014\*\**

### JOBS

- In December, private-sector employment in Nebraska grew by 400 jobs. Over the past year, the Nebraska private sector has added 7,000 jobs. This compares with an increase of 6,400 jobs over the 12 months ending in December 2013.
- Nebraska private-sector employers have added 48,400 jobs (an increase of 6.3 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Nebraska, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (10,200 jobs), education and health services (9,700 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (8,700 jobs).
- The Nebraska sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: leisure and hospitality (10.8 percent), professional and business services (10.3 percent) and financial activities (7.0 percent).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Nebraska was 2.9 percent in December 2014, down 0.2 percentage point from November. The rate is down 0.7 percentage point from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 4.9 percent in February 2010.
- 29,800 Nebraska residents were unemployed during December 2014, down from a recent high of 48,000 in February 2010. There are still 600 more people unemployed in Nebraska than when the recession began.
- In Nebraska, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 5,433 during December, down 26.0 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 11.4 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

### EXPORTS

- In Nebraska, exports totaled \$643 million in November and \$7.7 billion over the past year, up 7.9 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Nebraska exports over the past 12 months are up 26.2 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

### HOUSING

- Home prices in Nebraska increased by 4.0 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 9.8 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 and are now 6.6 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Nebraska totaled 13,820 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in November 2014, an increase of 78.1 percent from October.
- Within the Midwest census region, which includes Nebraska, sales of new single-family homes totaled 54,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2014, a decrease of 11.5 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 3.8 percent to 1,020,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2014.

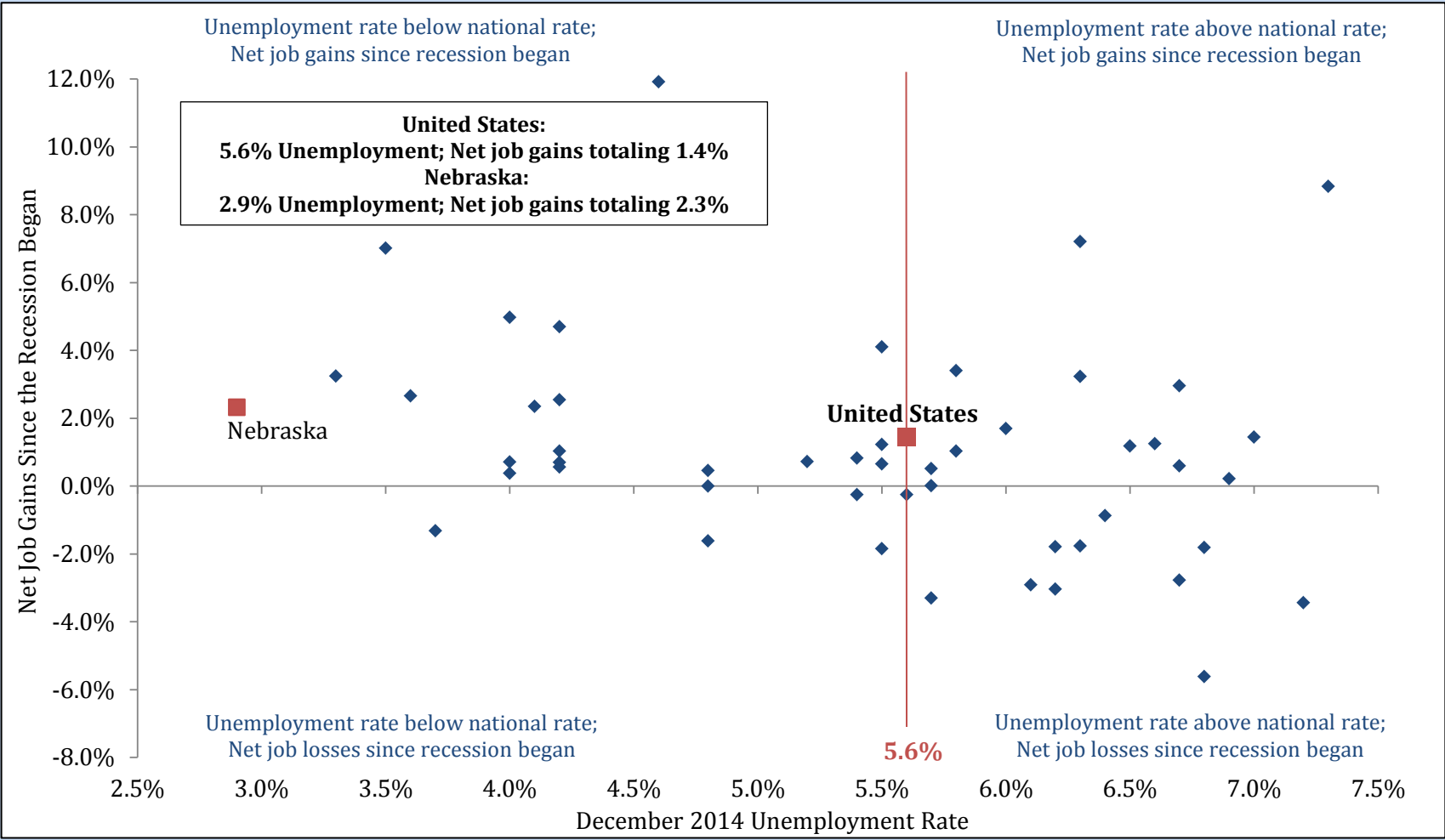
\* For Nebraska-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Nebraska office: <http://www.dol.nebraska.gov/>

## How Does Nebraska Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Nebraska to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Nebraska, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.8% and net job gains totaling 31.5% since the start of the recession.

### STATE QUICK FACTS

		Nebraska	United States
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> .....	December 2014	2.9%	5.6%
	December 2013	3.6%	6.7%
	December 2012	4.0%	7.9%
	December 2011	4.2%	8.5%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....	2013	9.8%	9.0%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2013	4.4%	6.6%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2013	13.8%	9.0%
<b>Median Household Income (2013 \$)</b> .....	2013	\$ 53,774	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 55,246	\$ 56,436
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2013	11.0%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	9.9%	12.5%
<b>Percentage Without Health Insurance</b> .....	2013	11.3%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			